

LAST WEEKLY ELECTION NATION-WIDE RUSH TO STOCK UP FOR DRY SPELL

the sale of beer and light wines did not result in any general defection from this attitude. The hotel men wanted more time in which to learn just how the situation was to work itself out.

Privately expressed, the belief of the hotel men was that the burden of proof that 2.75 beer is not intoxicating lay upon the liquor dealers, and that until this is established it would be unwise to do anything to antagonize the Government officials.

This situation appeared to be true last night only in respect to the hotels of the larger and better class, and there was every indication that the sale of beer in the great majority of saloons will continue to-day practically without interruption.

At the executive offices of the Hotel Biltmore it was said last night that the sale of intoxicating liquors would continue promptly at midnight in all the hotels under the management of John McE. Bowman. These include besides the Biltmore the Commodore, Manhattan, Belmont, Murray Hill and Ansonia.

The following statements were issued by hotel men last night:

Fred Wischart, manager Hotel Astor: "We didn't have enough liquor left to accommodate our customers at the bars to-day and had to send out for more. We will obey the law to the letter. It has been our observation that 30 per cent. of the trouble with hotels is through the sale of liquor. Some of the largest hotels in the country have made good without the sale of liquor, and I don't think prohibition is going to bother us to any extent. We are going to comply with the law and close the bar. We contemplate no immediate change of policy."

Roy Carruthers, manager of the Pennsylvania Hotel: "I don't know how much liquor we have left on hand. We sold a lot to-day, but we will positively sell no alcoholic drinks after midnight."

At the Pennsylvania it was officially stated that an increase in rates would go into effect immediately. An immense soda fountain has been installed in the bar and exhibits every evidence of permanency. A list of 100 soft drinks and loaves has been substituted for the wine list which went into the discard at midnight.

William H. Turner, manager of the Hotel Claridge, made this statement: "We will not sell a drop of liquor after midnight. We expect to do a fair business in soft drinks, but are going to stay within the law."

L. M. Boomer, managing director of the McAlpin, Waldorf, Fifth Avenue and Savarin Cafes and the Hotel Claridge, issued the following instructions last night to his department heads and announced that they would be lived up to absolutely:

"For your information and guidance: At midnight, June 30, we will discontinue the sale of all beverages with alcoholic content. This means literally what is stated and includes wines and beers."

Only Soft Drinks at Churchill's.

John C. Churchill, proprietor of Churchill's, made this statement: "We will sell only non-intoxicating drinks, but of course we are going to keep open. We sell a million dollars worth of food a year and the quicker some people realize that our business is as legitimate as any other the better it will be for them and ourselves too. The big cafes do not depend on the sale of liquor. We have a large stock on hand, but will comply with the law."

Copeland Townsend, proprietor of the Majestic, issued this statement:

"I do not intend to raise the prices of either the room or the food on account of prohibition. While the closing of the bar means a loss of about \$50,000 profit a year, we shall try to make it up by selling soft drinks, coffee, candy and the like. Every hotel's banquet department will also suffer from prohibition. I do not look for the period of dryness to last more than six weeks. The pendulum will then swing back as it should."

Manager Carruthers of the Pennsylvania said that the loss of revenue from the bar would cut down the hotel's gross business about 15 per cent., but would reduce the net profits probably 50 per cent.

The situation with respect to the retail liquor dealers was not easy to ascertain last night. It was announced, however, in behalf of the majority that the sale of beer and such light wines as can be regarded as non-intoxicating would continue as usual. It was said also that the sale of wines and liquors that will not come under the general classification of non-intoxicating will also be continued when it can be shown that the stuff is to be used for medicinal or sacramental purposes.

The opinion was freely expressed last night that this feature of the law leaves the way open for a multitude of violations and how it will eventually work out is a matter of conjecture.

Decide to Sell After Conference.

After an all day series of meetings and conference with counsel the liquor dealers of New York city and vicinity decided yesterday to continue the sale of light wines and the 2.75 per cent. beer as long as war time prohibition remains in effect.

The chief organizations of liquor dealers—the Hotel Men's Association of New York city, the Retail Liquor Dealers Association and the Society of Restaurateurs—met to hear the final word from counsel to each. There was complete unanimity in this advice, which was to continue the sale of beer and non-intoxicating wines.

Dealers are advised to go ahead in the belief that it finally will be demonstrated in the courts that beer with an alcoholic content of 2.75 per cent. is not intoxicating.

William H. Hirst, counsel for the Society of Restaurateurs, presented the following opinion to his clients and it was concurred in by George L. Donnell, counsel for the retail dealers and by Frank A. K. Boland for the hotel men.

Opinion Prompting Sales.

The opinion was as follows:

1. That it is permissible to sell beer containing alcohol not to exceed 2.75 per cent. upon the assumption that it is not intoxicating within the meaning of the war prohibition act.
2. That if the war prohibition act is unconstitutional, it is illegal to sell intoxicating wine.
3. That if the war prohibition act is unconstitutional, it is illegal to sell intoxicating wine.

For Canadian News See Pages 16 and 17

LIQUOR STORES SWAMPED IN FINAL BUYING RUSHES

Police Called Out to Curb Broadway and Other Crowds Eager to Stock Up With Whiskey and Other Banned Hard Stuff.

From noon yesterday and until late in the evening a certain proportion of the city and out of town population swarmed into retail liquor stores and overwhelmed the clerks with orders for whiskey, whiskey, whiskey. By the parcel packages and cases the fiery liquid was sold, and up until the wee hours of this morning the faithful motor hordes of the liquor merchants were preoccupied about the five boroughs and suburban parts distributing the eleventh hour purchases.

The customers, it was explained to a representative of THE SUN by one dealer, represented the procrastinators, who had it all figured out that whiskey could be had after today, and, secondly, if that belief was wrong the dealers would be compelled to sell the liquor at ridiculously low prices. But none of the merchants lowered prices and all the stores went over the counter for the sum that has been demanded right along.

The police reserves from the West Thirtieth street station, with Capt. William Bailey, spent several hours disciplining a crowd of last minute customers who struggled to get into the Park & Tilford Broadway store at 100 West 30th street. The customers got into a jumble going in and coming out. At the same moment the matinee crowd arrived and blocked sidewalk traffic. The management, fearing that the plate glass windows might be crashed in by the people shouldering against them, appealed to the police.

A few clerks and hundreds of customers came a similar scene in the store of L. M. Goldberg at 859 Eighth avenue, later in the evening. The men and women anxiously watching the clock became impatient while they waited in line to purchase a few bottles for the future. The store was in a wild state of agitation when police from the West Forty-seventh street station responded to a call for assistance.

The big store of Charles & Co., 114 East Thirty-fourth street, did a brisk business through the counters of the Pennsylvania Station and Grand Central Terminal. Over at the offices of the

is constitutional it is illegal to sell spirituous liquors for beverage purposes, regardless of the alcoholic content.

4. That the war prohibition act does not prohibit the sale of beer, wine or spirituous liquors for medicinal or cooking purposes, regardless of the alcoholic content.

5. That the war prohibition act does not prohibit the sale of beer, wine or spirituous liquors for export, regardless of the alcoholic content.

Mr. Hirst added that he had no opinion to express at this time upon the constitutionality of the law, but that he believed that this would be attacked without doubt.

To just what extent the opinion of the lawyers will be accepted and their advice followed by the liquor men could not be determined in advance. None of the hotel men or saloonkeepers at the various meetings openly declared an intention of violating the law beyond the sale of beer and light wines, and it was announced informally at the end of the meeting that this advice would be followed. Just what wine and beer the situation little attention. "Light wines and beer" was the phrase used constantly to describe the future course, but no one seemed willing to say what the definition of the unfettered stuff can be safely described as non-intoxicating.

Some Expect to Get "Hard Stuff."

Whatever grounds there may have been for the opinion were freely expressed up and down Broadway yesterday that there would be plenty of places where hard liquor would be obtainable for the asking, but this can be proved only by watchful waiting.

On the other hand, several individual saloon men announced their intention of adhering rigidly to the law, and they will not merit or suffer any penalty. This opinion was held to despite statements from Washington that the Attorney-General's department would make every effort to enforce the law, even to the extent of requesting the cooperation of State and municipal police authorities.

Some few saloon men announced their intention of closing their places entirely until demobilization is declared complete. These men professed to foresee considerable financial disaster if they conducted their places on the light wine and beer basis. These, however, were few and in most cases were men whose trade was principally in the more expensive drinks like highballs, rickys and mixed cocktails.

With a course laid out involving a caustic statement from William H. Anderson, superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, with regard to the Government plans for enforcement of the measure, and the Presidential promise to rescind it as soon as possible, Anderson charged that Mr. Wilson was playing politics in the issue and declared that his suggestion of relief to men in the liquor traffic would tend to paralyze the Government machinery for enforcement.

"No official," Anderson's statement said, "can have any great amount of heart in enforcing a law which he knows may be wiped out from under him at any minute." His statement read:

With the completion of demobilization the war prohibition act would be ended, regardless of the President's personal views on the question. But in showing a monkey wrench into the enforcement cylinder President Wilson is running time to form on the liquor question.

"In 1917 it was the prohibition forces and not the brewers that he asked to quash the law," he suggested, "that the operation of war prohibition be postponed a year. Last month he tried to prevent its going into effect at all, even though he had signed it, and unquestionably in this he now gives the liquor traffic to understand that he will come to its rescue if it can hold on in the meantime."

"The assurance from the Chief Executive official of the nation to the liquor men that he will do away with the law entirely at the earliest possible moment will be taken by the brewers who have claimed him as their ally as an implied invitation to violate the law in the interim. The President's suggestion will tend to paralyze the law enforcement machinery of the Government."

"In the face of other uncertainties no official can have any great amount of heart in enforcing a law which he knows may be wiped out from under him at any minute. Responsibility for any disorder or confusion due to violation of war prohibition is now located with the President."

"In view of the President's second attempt to put the Republican Congress in a hole to the people, he has no right to compel them to believe that he is seeking in behalf of himself or whoever else he names as the Democratic nominee in 1920 the support of

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Barclay Corporation, 267 West Broadway, customers arrived in fine large four and limousines open and carried off five and ten and even as many as fifteen cases, containing twelve bottles to each case of the subtle tropical rum. Mark Purton, their main office at 229 West Forty-second street, stated that all the stores were reporting a brisk business of "bulk" purchases. Many of the people carried the precious packages home themselves because nearly all the better class liquor and grocery stores emphasized the fact that any whiskey lost, damaged and partly lost in delivery would not be made good. All deliveries went on that agreement.

That was one of the principal reasons why the liquor men were in such a hurry last night carried away bundles of the favorite brand. Babe McDonald, the traffic cop at Broadway and Third street, said that all the good trucks which passed him during his tour of duty, from 8 in the morning until 5 in the evening, was loaded with cases and bundles of whiskey.

"The trucks on Broadway to-day carried enough booze past me," said McDonald, "to float the little English navy. I once pushed a little four wheel hand truck up Fifth avenue late in the afternoon on which were two cases of whiskey that he apparently was afraid to deliver to express delivery. All of the stores will take down whiskey signs and bottles to-day."

The dealers in bottled goods, who sell wines and liquor for consumption at home, decided at a special meeting of the Family Wine and Liquor Dealers' Protective Association, at Terrace Gardens last night to keep open today and continue to sell 2.75 per cent. beer and 2.75 per cent. wines.

This decision was taken on the advice of a statement when Mark Goldberg, counsel for the association, who said that in his opinion the war prohibition act is unconstitutional. He also advised the sale of wine and liquor for cooking purposes. There are about 1,000 liquor dealers in the city who are licensed to sell goods for consumption off the premises only.

Notwithstanding the nationwide interest in the situation the New York police maintained the habitual policy of silence with respect to the preparations and plans for enforcement.

A meeting of inspectors was called at Headquarters yesterday afternoon and was addressed by Commissioner Enright and Chief Inspector John Daly. The inspectors were instructed as to the course they were to follow and left Headquarters to transmit the instructions to the captains in their respective districts. A message was passed along to the patrolmen, but no official statement of what attitude the police were to take was forthcoming.

Commissioner Enright refused to discuss the matter in any way, and as Chief Inspector Daly referred all questioners to the Commissioner, the matter ended there. None of the inspectors that attended the meeting would say what took place.

It became known later that telephone calls had been received in all precincts from the chief inspector's office conveying this order:

"Your patrol force is to notify all saloonkeepers that any one offering whiskey or spirituous liquors for sale after midnight will be placed under summary arrest and arraigned before the United States Commissioner."

The order was issued in the name of Chief Inspector Daly.

CHICAGO BONE DRY AS MIDNIGHT COMES

Beer Taboo Under State Law—High Tide at 9 o'Clock.

Special Dispatch to THE SUN.

CHICAGO, June 30.—Chicago went dry at midnight, despite hopes for a continuation of sale of light wines and beer. Under the Illinois "search and seizure law," passed as an enforcement act, and to the national amendment, intoxicating beverages are defined as those which contain more than one-half of 1 per cent. of alcohol.

Chicago brewers to-night announced that under this law no beer would be sold or delivered. The act is in force until the President proclaims demobilization. Many saloonkeepers have announced that they will defy the law, but the dry leaders threaten swift prosecution.

The "solid out" sign appeared over the closed doors of many loop saloons to-day about 9 o'clock. Alcohol in Chicago reached its lowest ebb here to-day. The flow at that time had reached an acceleration unprecedented in the experiences of the oldest saloonkeepers. Every vacant store had its doors open to service as an emergency liquor emporium and goods in bottles, cans and kegs were rushed across bars of rough pine planks to furnish work of making every cellar an oasis for the long dry spell.

Enormous stocks of cheap whiskeys—some of which bore names unfamiliar to the most veteran drinker—made their appearance on the market in the closing hours. Sparkling Burgundy and artificial "vins moussaux" were being sold at fabulous prices long before the celebration was well started. Saumur wines were quoted in one loop hotel at \$40 a quart and champagne of the better brands was unobtainable at any price.

The supply of still wines, however, seemed to be holding up well in spite of the insatiable demand. Whiskey, gun rum were also to be had in unlimited quantities, the price varying with the grade of the liquor, the district in which it was sold and the amount of the supply on hand.

In some saloons each hour brought the addition of from 25 to 50 cents a quart to the selling price of standard whiskeys, with promise of leaps of \$1 or more at a time during the last hours of the wet season.

CIRCUS CUTS OFF A "WET" DAY.

Burlington, Vt., Saloons Close Earlier Because of Show.

BURLINGTON, Vt., June 30.—John Barclay was officially counted out in Burlington Saturday night, the Vermont city being probably the first "wet" place in the United States to go "bone dry" under war time prohibition. While it would have "gone dry" to-night, the fact that a circus was to be here to-day was responsible for the saloons here closing their doors one day sooner than in most other "wet" cities.

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